

**University of Calgary**  
**International Relations 301**  
**A Multidisciplinary Survey of International Relations**  
**Fall Session 2012**

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SS 702

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This class is a multidisciplinary survey of how different disciplines approach the study of international relations. Both the theory and practice of international relations will be explored through the comparative analysis of different methodologies, theoretical approaches, and definitions of key concepts from the fields of anthropology, economics, geography, history, and political science.

**Course Objectives:**

- To provide students with an introduction to the discipline and methodologies of International Relations
- To introduce students to the concepts, theories, and specialized nomenclature specific to the study of International Relations. Students will be required to demonstrate competence in the concepts, theories, and specialized nomenclature covered in both lectures and required readings in every course component.
- To provide students with the opportunity to enhance their research, writing, and analytical skills

**Grades:**

30% Midterm – In Class, **Wednesday, October 31** – Closed book. **The Midterm will cover Subject Areas I and II only.**

35% Paper Assignment – Applying International Relations Theory to Practice (10-12 pages [3600 words maximum], typed [12-point font], double spaced – Students **must cite** both of their textbooks as well as an additional 10 [minimum] academic sources) – **Due In Class Monday, November 19.** **Email submissions will not be accepted.**

35% Registrar's Scheduled Final Exam

**Assigned Textbooks:**

Betts, Richard K. *Conflict after the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boston: Pearson, 2013.

Viotti, Paul R. & Mark V. Kauppi, *International Relations and World Politics*. Boston: Pearson, 2013.

**Note:**

- Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy
- All course components must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.
- Late assignments will be penalized half a grade point (0.5 on a 4.0 scale) per day unless an extension is granted before the assignment due date.
- Extensions for term papers will normally not exceed one week and require that the student seek the instructor's permission before an extension will be granted.
- Grades will be calculated according to the University of Calgary's Undergraduate Grading System. Grades and their descriptors are as follows:

A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent - superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.70	
B+	3.30	
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.70	
C+	2.30	
C	2.00	Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter.
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	Fail

**Subject Areas and Required Readings:****Subject Area I: Introduction to International Relations**

Readings:

Viotti &amp; Kauppi, Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 6

**Subject Area II: Levels of Analysis and IR Theory**

Readings:

Viotti &amp; Kauppi, Chapter 2

Betts, Parts II, III, V, VI (readings by Lenin and Schumpeter only), and VII

**Subject Area III: International Political Economy (IPE)**

Readings:

Viotti &amp; Kauppi, Chapters 5, 11, and 12

Betts, Part VI

**Subject Area IV: Foreign Policy**

Readings:

Betts, Part IV

**Subject Area V: International Institutions and Governance**

Readings:

Viotti &amp; Kauppi, Chapters 7 and 8

**Subject Area VI: Security and Strategy**

Readings:

Viotti &amp; Kauppi, Chapters 9 and 10

Betts, Parts VIII and IX

**Subject Area VII: Contemporary Issues in International Relations**

Readings:

Viotti &amp; Kauppi, chapters 13 and 14

Betts, Parts I and X

**Classroom Policies:**

Students are expected to arrive in class prepared to learn and discuss material when appropriate. If you have a question about lecture material, or simply need to have a point clarified, please do not hesitate to ask.

- Please **set all cell phones/wireless devices to manner mode** when attending lectures.
- Demonstrate respect for your colleagues' learning environment by refraining from engaging in private conversations during lectures or using laptop/notebook computers for any other purpose than taking notes.
- If you must leave the class during the lecture for whatever reason, please do so quickly and quietly to minimize the distraction to other students.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they know the date, time and location of the Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Sometimes absences from class are unavoidable. If such an absence happens to fall on the date of a scheduled quiz or assignment **PLEASE NOTIFY US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE VIA EMAIL** to make alternate arrangements.

### **Written Assignment:**

The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with the opportunity to **research** a particular issue in international relations, to **apply** the levels of analysis to that issue, and to **argue** which level of analysis best explains the issue you have selected.

Gathering the material for your assignment consists of **THREE** building blocks: selection of an issue, selection of a thematic concentration, and application of the levels of analysis to your issue.

#### Issue:

You will select your issue. The issue you select may be contemporary or historical and **it must be linked to one of the three thematic concentrations covered in the IRBA program** (see Thematic Selection below). **It is your responsibility to make sure that there are enough academic sources available on your issue to fulfill the research requirements indicated for the Paper Assignment on page 1 of this outline.**

#### Thematic Selection:

In class lectures and assigned readings detail the three different thematic concentrations familiar to most I.R. students in the IRBA – **International Political Economy, International Institutions and Governance, and Security and Strategy** – and provide the most relevant theoretical concepts students should be aware of. For this assignment, you will select **ONE** thematic concentration. Choose wisely, we will be expecting you to apply the theories, concepts, and approaches detailed in these chapters to your issue (**see Subject Areas III, V, and VI on page 3 of this outline**).

#### Levels of Analysis:

In class lectures and assigned readings provide you with the necessary background material on the three levels of analysis (**see Subject Area II on page 2 of this outline**). For this assignment, you will have to account for **ALL THREE LEVELS** in your paper.

#### The Assignment:

After you have selected your issue and your thematic concentration, your task is to a) apply each level of analysis to your issue and demonstrate how each level of analysis explains it; b) identify the strengths and weaknesses of each level of analysis in explaining the issue; and c) based on your assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each level, argue which level best explains the issue you have selected.

**Grading:**

Grading for the assignment will be based on the following criteria:

**Argument:** Is the paper argumentative? Is the argument presented clearly in a thesis statement in the introductory paragraph/section of the paper?

**Organization:** Are the ideas in the paper organized efficiently? Does the argument flow logically and coherently?

**Research:** Have the research requirements stated on page 1 of this outline been met? Are the academic sources cited relevant to the issue and thematic concentration selected, and the argument being made? How effectively do the academic sources cited support the argument being made?

**Writing style/Editing:** How is the paper written? Are there any issues with passive voice, punctuation, tense agreements? Does the paper require any editing, better word choices? Does each page have a number? This section will also evaluate adherence to footnote/endnote conventions as well as the structure of the bibliography and proper essay formatting.

**Originality/Quality of analysis:** Does the paper present a standard interpretation/narrative or does it strive to go beyond the basic narrative to assess and analyze the material under consideration? Generally speaking, the better the analysis, the better the paper

A-level answer “Excellent”

- Demonstrates mastery of the material covered by the question
- Applies and discusses concepts/theories in a sophisticated fashion using appropriate examples to illustrate its case
- Difference between “A-” and “A” level answers will be the quality of analysis

B-level answer; “Very Good”

- Has a solid grasp of the material and its constituent parts
- Makes reference to broader concepts and theories but might be missing an element or two or makes minor errors in their application or leaves out some parts in its explanation
- Generally a solid answer

C-level answer; “Good”

- Basic understanding of the material
- Tends to rely on generalization to guide its analysis without drawing specific links to concepts covered in class and material in the answer
- Usually provides a straight narrative with minimal analysis

D-level answer; “Poor”

- Has difficulty with the material either because it
  - Makes numerous factual errors
  - Demonstrates incomplete knowledge of the material or application of theories/concepts covered
  - Uses inappropriate examples to make its case

F-level answer; “Fail”

- Doesn't address the assignment or makes grievous errors in applying concepts and theories

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:**

The **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)** legislation *disallows* the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (e.g., outside instructor's office, the department office, etc.) Please note that the University's policy reads, in part:

*Term assignments must be returned to students individually during class OR during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelop to be used for the return of the assignment.*

**Assignments are NOT available in the General Office for pick-up.**

### **Students with Disabilities:**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

The University of Calgary's Plagiarism Statement reads as follows:

***Plagiarism*** - essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

*(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test)*

*(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author*

*(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or*

*(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

*While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.*

**Penalties for plagiarism include a minimum of failure on the assignment and usually failure in the course. Suspension or expulsion are also possible penalties depending on the severity of the offense.**

For further information on the University of Calgary's Academic Misconduct policies, please consult *The University of Calgary Calendar* or visit the appropriate page on the University of Calgary website.

### **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **"SAFEWALK" Program**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

### **Student Representation**

Another source of information that you may wish to use is your student representative. All faculties elect students to represent them on the Students Union. Please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>